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 INFO RUEHDG/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 4410  
 RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 7894  
 RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 4095  
 RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 1478  
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E.O. 12356: N/A  
 TAGS: EAID, OVIP, OREP, PGOV, JM  
 SUBJECT: WGXLO1 HURRICANE GILBERT DISASTER SITREP  
 - AS OF 1500 HRS EDT SEP 19  
 -

## SUMMARY

1. REV. JESSE JACKSON AND REPS. TOWNS AND OWENS VISITED JAMAICA SEP 18-19, TOURING DISASTER AREAS AND MEETING WITH PM SEAGA AND OPPOSITION LEADER MANLEY. THE JACKSON PARTY STRESSED THE NEED FOR A BIPARTISAN JAMAICAN APPROACH TO RELIEF AND SAID THEY WOULD EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR MORE U.S. ASSISTANCE ON THEIR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT JAMAICA MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY IMF DRAWING. A WORLD BANK SURVEY TEAM IS EXPECTED SEP 21. THE MONTEGO BAY AREA TOURIST BACKLOG IS ALMOST CLEARED. WE HAVE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS WITH LANDLORD-SUPPLIED EMERGENCY ELECTRICAL POWER AT THE CHANCERY. END SUMMARY.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS MEMBERS AND REV. JESSE JACKSON CONCLUDE VISIT

2. REPS. EDOLPHUS TOWNS AND MAJOR OWENS, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS, AND REV. JESSE JACKSON CONCLUDED A 24-HR. VISIT TO JAMAICA SEP 19. AFTER A SEP 18 FIELD TRIP TO VIEW HURRICANE DAMAGE IN ST. THOMAS PARISH (SEE SEP 18 SITREP), THE VISITORS HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH PRIME MINISTER SEAGA AND THE AMBASSADOR PARTICIPATED.

3. AT THE CONFERENCE, THE PM WAS ASKED TO QUANTIFY DAMAGE AND FUNDS NEEDED FOR RECONSTRUCTION. HE REPLIED THAT AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE. ASSESSMENTS, HE NOTED, WERE UNDERWAY, AND A WORLD BANK TEAM WILL SOON BE HERE. SEAGA WARNED THAT SOME EARLY FIGURES HAD COME OFF "TOPS OF HEADS" AND WERE INACCURATE. HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS WHAT ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE NEEDED IN IMF TARGETS. INSTEAD, WHAT WAS NEEDED NOW WAS TO CONCENTRATE ON GETTING FOOD AND RECONSTRUCTION SUPPLIES OUT TO PEOPLE IN

*Handwritten:* Rep Towns Rep Owens

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88 0322912 SUO

PAGE 002  
TOR: 192315Z SEP 88NC 0322912  
KINGST 09770

NEED. WHILE AGRICULTURE ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY EIGHT PERCENT OF GDP, THE PM POINTED OUT, IT PROVIDES THE ECONOMIC BASE FOR HALF OF JAMAICA'S PEOPLE. REPLYING TO A REPORTER'S SUGGESTION THAT FOREIGN COUNTRIES WERE NOT DOING ENOUGH, SEAGA SAID THIS WAS NOT SO, AND CITED ASSISTANCE COMING IN FROM THE UNITED STATES--IMMEDIATE HELP WITH COMMO AND A STEADY FLOW OF AIRLIFTED SUPPLIES--AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. REV. JACKSON SAID THAT THE DISASTER RESPONSE SHOULD BE BIPARTISAN, ECUMENICAL, AND HUMANITARIAN. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THE EMBASSY, SAID HE WAS "DELIGHTED" WITH DEP. SECRETARY WHITEHEAD'S COMMENTS, AND ADDED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST DO MORE. JACKSON HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND MONEY, PL 480 ASSISTANCE, AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP) FUNDING. HE SAW MAP AS ESSENTIAL FOR THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE TO CONTINUE ITS WAR AGAINST DRUGS IN JAMAICA. CONGRESSMEN TOWNS AND OWEN EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE IN JAMAICA TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND REPORT TO CONGRESS ON WHAT MORE SHOULD BE DONE.

5. THE JACKSON PARTY NEXT ATTENDED A SCALED-DOWN 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP). JACKSON TOLD THE PNP THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS "REACHING OUT," THAT SUPPLIES WERE COMING IN, AND THAT HE WAS GOING BACK TO GET MORE SUPPORT. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE CARIBBEAN MIGHT WELL BE OUR "FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE IN THE HEMISPHERE, THE REAL ENEMIES WERE POVERTY, ALONG WITH "HURRICANE, COKE, CRACK, AND HEROIN, NOT COMMUNISM; MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS NEEDED NOT TO "SHOOT SOME ALIEN IDEOLOGY," BUT TO STOP DRUGS. THE GOJ HOSTED A DINNER FOR THE JACKSON PARTY SEP 18. PNP REPS WERE INVITED, AND JACKSON AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR BIPARTISAN COOPERATION.

6. IN A SEP 19 MEETING AT JAMAICA HOUSE, THE PM OUTLINED GOJ STRATEGY. HE SAID HE HAD INITIALLY CENTRALIZED RELIEF EFFORTS AT JAMAICA HOUSE BECAUSE THE EXISTING GOJ SYSTEM WAS INADEQUATE. AT PRESENT, GOJ STRATEGY IS TO "FLOOD" EASTERN JAMAICA AND OTHER UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 KINGSTON 09770

E.O. 12356: N/A  
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SEVERELY AFFECTED AREAS WITH RATIONS OF NUTRIBUNS AND JUICE TO PREVENT STARVATION WHILE FAMILY-BY-FAMILY NEEDS SURVEYS ARE CONDUCTED. AFTER THAT, FOOD STAMPS WILL BE HANDED OUT, ALONG WITH BUILDING SUPPLY ENTITLEMENTS FOR THOSE TOO POOR TO PAY. SEAGA STRESSED THAT THE KEY INGREDIENT WAS FOREIGN EXCHANGE. WITHOUT IT, FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND RECONSTRUCTION COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED. ADDITIONAL U.S. HELP WAS ESSENTIAL, AND THE PM SAID HE WAS SENDING DOCUMENTATION TO WASHINGTON. JACKSON REITERATED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONVINCE AMERICANS THAT THIS WAS A HUMANITARIAN MISSION ABOVE POLITICS.

7. THE JACKSON PARTY DEPARTED FOR THE UNITED STATES AT 1230 HRS SEP 19 AFTER A STOP AT THE MARCUS GARVEY MEMORIAL FOR A WREATH-LAYING. EARLIER IN THE MORNING, THE PARTY HAD BREAKFASTED WITH MANLEY AND OTHER PNP LEADERS.

**UNCLASSIFIED**

**UNCLASSIFIED**

88 0322912 SUO

PAGE 003  
TOR: 192315Z SEP 88

NC 0322912  
KINGST 09770

IMF AND WORLD BANK ACTIVITIES

8. WE UNDERSTAND FROM IMF SOURCES THAT IF THE NEW STANDBY STANDBY IS APPROVED JAMAICA SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ABOUT USDOLS 19 MILLION IMMEDIATELY. WHILE STANDBY TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN AS BEFORE, THE IMF, WE WERE TOLD, PLANS TO SEND A REVIEW MISSION IN DECEMBER TO SEE WHETHER THE EFFECTS OF THE HURRICANE INDICATE A NEED FOR MODIFYING TARGETS. IMF ALSO HAS A PROGRAM OF EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, FOR WHICH JAMAICA MIGHT QUALIFY. IT ALLOWS A COUNTRY TO DRAW UP TO 25 PERCENT OF ITS QUOTA (JAMAICA'S IS SDR 145.5 MILLION, MEANING A POTENTIAL SDR 36.38 MILLION EMERGENCY DRAWING). IN ADDITION, A WORLD BANK ASSESSMENT TEAM (REFERRED TO ABOVE BY PM SEAGA) IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE SEP 21.

TOURIST BACKLOG ALMOST CLEARED

9. OUR CONSULAR AGENT IN MONTEGO BAY REPORTS THAT ALMOST ALL STRANDED TOURISTS HAVE NOW LEFT THE MONTEGO BAY AREA BY AIR.

POWER OFF AT CHANCERY

10. THE EMERGENCY POWER GENERATOR AT THE MAIN CHANCERY BUILDING WAS SHUT DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE AT 1330 HRS SEP 19, RESULTING IN LOSS OF ALL LIGHTING, SWITCHBOARD, AND ELEVATOR CAPABILITY. AT 1400 HRS, THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR AT THE CONSULAR SECTION, LOCATED IN A SEPARATE OFFICE BUILDING, FAILED. BOTH SYSTEMS ARE MAINTAINED BY LANDLORDS. USAID'S EMERGENCY GENERATOR REMAINS IN OPERATION, AS DO THE EMBASSY'S OWN GENERATORS SUPPLYING COMMO AND CONSULAR DATA AND WORD PROCESSING OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOW BEEN MORE THAN A WEEK WITHOUT REGULAR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY, AND THE STRAIN IS BEGINNING TO SHOW ON EMERGENCY GENERATING EQUIPMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT POWER UTILITY IS ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE POWER SUPPLY IN THE CHANCERY AREA ON A PRIORITY BASIS.  
(DRAFT:JNACH/DBLACK/EASWIFT//APP:DCM:SRGIBSON)  
SOTIRHOS

END OF MESSAGE

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